DC HORROR
PRESENTS...

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"Love You to Pieces" Featuring **Dollhouse**
David Dastmalchian **Leah Kilpatrick** writers
Cat Staggs artist **Romulo Fajardo Jr.** colorist **Simon Bowland** letterer

"Doom's Doorway" Featuring **Wonder Woman**
The Boulet Brothers writers **Butch Mapa** artist
Kristian Rossi colorist **Simon Bowland** letterer

"Living Doll" Featuring **Scarface**
LaToya Morgan writer **Tom Derenick** **Walt Barna** artists
Nick Filardi colorist **Simon Bowland** letterer

"Superstitious Lot" Featuring **the Penguin**
Aaron Sagers writer **Ryan Kelly** pencils and inks
Dee Cunniffe colorist **Simon Bowland** letterer

"The Chthonian Dawn" Featuring **Batman**
Francesco Francavilla writer and artist **Simon Bowland** letterer

"The Brooding Public" Featuring **Adam Strange**
Patrick Horvath writer and artist **Simon Bowland** letterer

"The Diamond That Steals Back" Featuring **Catwoman**
Patton Oswalt **Jordan Blum** writers **Danny Earls** artist
Jão Canola colorist **Simon Bowland** letterer

"A Matter of Life and Death" Featuring **Matter-Eater Lad**
Steven Kostanski **Brendan Hay** writers **Logan Faerber** artist **Simon Bowland** letterer

Tyler Crook collection cover artist

Superman created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster
By special arrangement with the Jerry Siegel family

DC HORROR PRESENTS...

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DC Horror Presents... #1
cover art by Tyler Crook

DC Horror Presents... #1
variant cover art by Francesco Francavilla

DOLLHOUSE IN:
"LOVE YOU TO PIECES"
MAX, HONEY, YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT!
THEY HAD YOUR FAVORITE FIG SPREAD AT THE--

MAX?
SWEET-HEART...?
OH MY GOD... MAX!
NOOOOO

OOOOOOO!
GREAT. ANOTHER D.O.A.
GOTHAM CITY
PARAMEDIC RESCUE
AMBULANCE
CALL 911
MAX! WHY?!
STAY BACK.
LEAVE HIM ALONE!

MA'AM, HE'S A GONER.
NO, HE NEEDS ME.
I CAN HELP HIM!
GOTHAM CITY
PARAMEDIC RESCUE
AMBULANCE
I CAN FIX HIM!
WE'RE GONNA NEED YOU TO COME WITH US SO WE CAN FILE A REPORT--
EMS
EMS
AMBULANCE
123
--OR NOT.

OH MAN, I JUST GOT THIS DRY-CLEANED.
YOU'LL LEARN THAT STAYING CLEAN IN THIS CITY IS A LUXURY.
SMASH
I THINK YOU LOOK JUST FINE, BUT I'M GONNA BE NEEDING THIS--
DRIVE!

THE TOY BOX
(DOLLMAKER'S HOME)
WE'RE HEEERRRRRE! NOW HELP ME WITH MAX AND YOUR BUDDY!
GOTHAM CITY PARAMEDIC RESCUE
AMBULANCE
EMS
EMS
AMBULANCE
123
THANKS, YOU'RE A LIFE-SAVER--
SLAM
SQUISH
SEE WHAT I DID THERE...?
WELL, YOU WILL...
KNOCK KNOCK

DADDY!
PLEASE, DADDY, YOU HAVE TO HELP.
MAX WAS MY WHOLE WORLD.
SNAP
YOU'RE GONNA LOVE HIM, I PROMISE.

HOW LONG HAS HE BEEN DEAD?
ALMOST AN HOUR...
SO WE HAVE THIRTY MINUTES LEFT!
DAMN IT, MATILDA, WE BARELY HAVE ANY VIABLE ORGANS TO WORK WITH!
THAT HAMMER OF YOURS SURE WRECKS A LOTS OF THE VITAL BITS.
THE MOST IMPORTANT PIECE.
SLICE
SQUISH
WAIT! I DON'T WANT HIM TO WAKE UP HERE!

PLEASE, DADDY! I JUST THINK THIS MAY ALL BE A BIT... TOO MUCH FOR HIM.
HE'S VERY SENSITIVE.
YOU'RE WELCOME.
WE'RE ALMOST HOME, BABY.
WE'RE SO CLOSE...
...THREE... TWO...
DARLING!
N-N-N-NO! N-N-NUH-NO! N-N-NOT HE-HE-HERE...I WAS F-F-FREE! F-F-FINALLY FREE!

writing DAVID DASTMALCHIAN & LEAH KILPATRICK
pencils & inks CAT STAGGS • colors ROMULO FAJARDO JR.
lettering SIMON BOWLAND
associate editor SABRINA FUTCH • editor KATIE KUBERT

THEMYSCIRA. THIRD NIGHT OF THE FULL MOON.
...GREAT HERA...
OH... ORITHIA.
OUR TROUBLES GROW, DONNA. THIS IS THE THIRD NIGHT THAT WE HAVE FOUND A VICTIM...
...DEBASED.
DIANA, WHO WOULD DO SUCH A THING?
THERE MUST BE AN INTRUDER ON THE ISLAND, BECAUSE NONE OF OUR SISTERS WOULD BE CAPABLE OF COMMITTING SUCH AN ATROCITY.
CAPTAIN...

...OUR SCOUTS PICKED UP A BLOOD TRAIL.
THEN LET US SEE WHERE IT LEADS.
DIANA... WE'RE APPROACHING YOUR MOTHER'S GRAVE... YOU DON'T HAVE TO...
IT WOULD APPEAR SOMETHING HAS TAMPERED WITH HER GRAVE. WHAT COULD THIS POSSIBLY HAVE TO DO WITH...
YES... YES I DO.

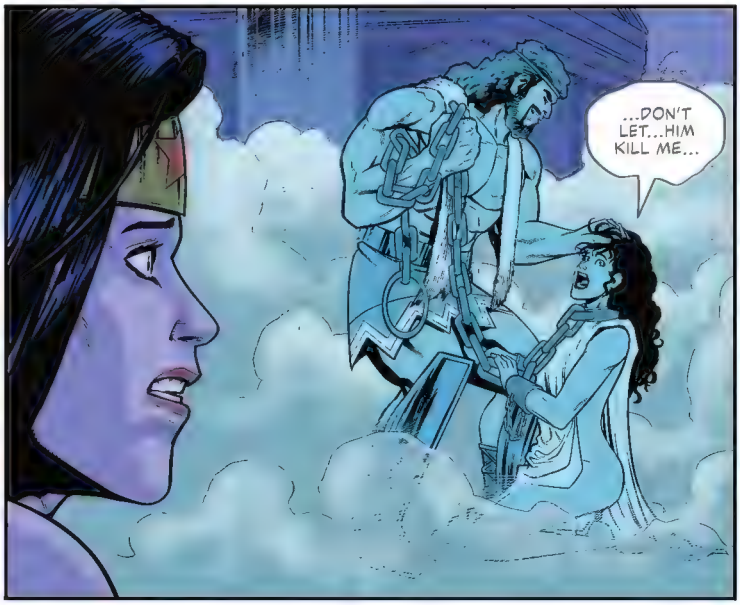
WAIT, THERE'S SOMETHING... MOVING... INSIDE...
KRRRRK
NGGAAAAHH!
KRRAAK
AARGH!
SLORCH

MOTHER?!
UHN!
FGGGGH
DONNA, PIN HER ARMS!
GHAAKK!
BETRAYERS!

NO!

THIS CAN'T BE REAL...BUT WHAT IF...?
D-DIANA, HELP... >UKKK<

DONNA! WHAT...


...DON'T LET...HIM KILL ME...

AAAAAH!
SHHHK
HAAHAHAHAAHAA!
YOU LET YOUR SSSSISTER DIE... AS YOU LET ME DIE...
...WILL YOU LEAVE HER BODY HERE ALONE TO ROT ASSSS YOU DID MINE?
...SO COLD, DIANA... I HAVE LAIN FROZEN, LISTENING TO THE SSSSOUNDS OF MY BODY IN DECAY...

...TO THE SSSYMPHONY OF VERMIN CONSUMING MY FLESSSSH... THE VERY FLESH THAT GAVE YOU LIFE...YOUR OWN MOTHER...
...AND ALL THAT TIME, ALL I COULD IMAGINE WAS YOU...LIVING, CONTINUING, AND SSSSAVING EVERY OTHER POSSSSSSSIBLE THING ON THIS PITIFUL PLANET... BUT ME.
I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE...AND I KNOW WHY YOU HAVE BROUGHT ME TO DOOM'S DOORWAY...TO TARTARUS...
...BUT I WILL NOT SATIATE YOUR DEFILED SPIRIT'S THIRST FOR VENGEANCE...

...I WILL NOT TAKE YOUR PLACE.
...PLEASSSEE... DIE FOR ME, ASSSS I HAVE FOR YOU!
AAAHH... EUKKK!
...MOTHER... N-NOO! ÷Ahhkk÷
DIANA...
...CLOSE THE %$#@!#@ DOOR!

...DON'T... LEAVE ME... AG-AGAIN...
...DAUGHTER... HA...HAHA... HAAAHAAA HAHA...

IT'S OVER NOW...SHE'S... GONE FROM US... AGAIN...
...DONNA...I COULDN'T BEAR TO PUSH HER BACK IN... I...
OH...HOW ENDEARING...
...WELL, HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY, PRINCESS. I HOPE YOU ENJOYED YOUR GIFT FROM CIRCE.
HAHAHA HAAAAA...
THE END

writers **THE BOULET BROTHERS** • pencils & inks **BUTCH MAPA** • colors **KRISTIAN ROSSI**
lettering **SIMON BOWLAND** • associate editor **SABRINA FUTCH** • editor **KATIE KUBERT**

DC Horror Presents... #2
cover art by Tyler Crook

DC Horror Presents... #2
variant cover art by Tom Fowler and Bill Crabtree

I PROMISED YOU SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR HALLOWEEN, DIDN'T I?
LIVING DOLL
writer LaTOYA MORGAN
artists TOM DERENICK and WALT BARNA
colorist NICK FILARDI • letterer SIMON BOWLAND
cover TYLER CROOK
variant cover TOM FOWLER and BILL CRABTREE
associate editor SABRINA FUTCH • editor KATIE KUBERT
PRIVATE PROPERTY
I WAS THINKING SOMETHING LIKE A ROMANTIC DINNER AT GINO'S, NOT BREAKING AND ENTERING--
NO TRESSPASING
THIS'LL BE BETTER, I PROMISE. C'MON, THIS WAY.
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS? WHAT'RE WE EVEN DOING HERE?
Shhh! IT'S A SURPRISE.

51
PRODUCTION
QUIET, Please!
THIS IS KINDA CREEPY, TRAVIS. I DON'T WANNA GET INTO TROUBLE.
MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T--
NOBODY'S HERE. EVERYONE'S HANDING OUT CANDY TO LITTLE GOBLINS AND SUPERHEROES.
RAMSEY, BABY, YOU'VE GOTTA TRUST ME. YOU READY TO HAVE YOUR MIND BLOWN?
THIS BETTER BE GOOD.
PRODUCTION STAFF
BEEP

WHERE ARE WE? WHAT IS THIS?
CONSIDER THIS YOUR UNAUTHORIZED BACKSTAGE PASS...
...TO SHADOW CREST!
SHADOW CREST
HOLY SH--
--MY FRACKING FAVORITE SHOW!
YOUR FRACKING FAVORITE SHOW.
HOW DID YOU--?
COST ME HALF AN ARM AND A LEG TO PAY OFF ONE OF THE SET P.A.s TO GET THIS BADGE, BUT IT WAS WORTH IT JUST TO SEE YOUR--
BATMAN'S GOT NOTHING ON YOU.

BETTER THAN DINNER?
HELL YES!
I WANNA SEE EVERYTHING!
THIS IS WHERE THE MAGIC HAPPENS.
THE SCPD BULLPEN!
IT'S SO MUCH SMALLER THAN IT LOOKS ON TV.
BEST PART'S COMING UP.
SCPD
WOW. THAT'S ARNOLD WESKER'S CELL! IT EVEN HAS AN EASTER EGG.
583
WESKER
WHERE?
583. FIRST SCARFACE APPEARANCE IN THE COMICS.
I TOTALLY MISSED THAT. NOBODY CAN OUT-FANGIRL YOU.
I READ ON SPOILERZONE THAT THEY MIGHT BE KILLING OFF HIS CHARACTER. THOUGHT YOU'D WANNA SEE IT BEFORE THEY TEAR IT ALL DOWN.
KILL THE BEST CHARACTER ON THE SHOW?!
DUMMIES.
HEY. CHECK THIS OUT.
DUMMY
DUMMY
DUMMY
DUMMY
DUMMY

ALL THE HERO PROPS YOUR LITTLE HEART DESIRES.
EVERY CHARACTER'S SIGNATURE WEAPON.

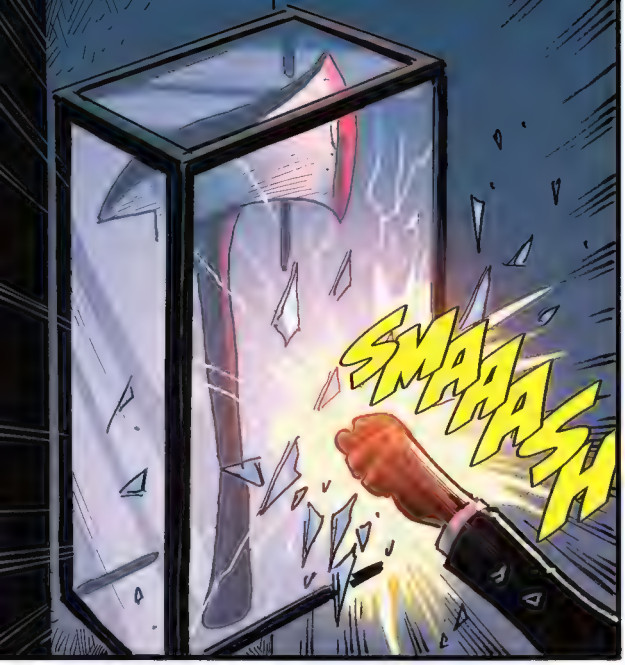
I CAN THINK OF A FEW CREATIVE WAYS TO USE THIS.
LOOK...

...NO WAY...
PROPERTY OF THE VENTRILOQUIST
LET'S OPEN IT UP AND SEE.

IT'S REALLY HIM.

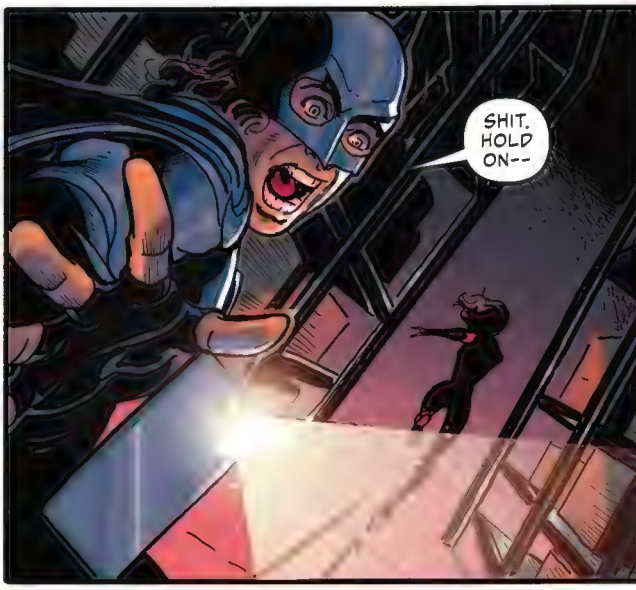
SCARFACE.
BADASS.

HE LOOKS SO... REAL.
VERY REAL AND VERY CREEPY. YOU SCARED?
WHAT? I'M NOT SCARED!
YOU LOOK SCARED.
DON'T WORRY. IT'S JUST A PROP. I'LL KEEP YOU SAFE.
PROPERTY OF THE VENTRILOQUIST
KLIK
WHAT THE--?!
I CAN'T SEE ANY-THING!
LIGHTS MUST BE ON A TIMER OR SOMETHING--
WE SHOULD GO. LET'S GET OUTTA HERE.
WAIT.
WHERE THE HELL DID THE PUPPET GO?
PROPERTY OF THE VENTRILOQUIST


SMAAASH

WHAT WAS THAT CRASH?
I--I'M NOT SURE. MAYBE SOMETHING FELL OVER--
YOU SAID NOBODY ELSE WAS HERE--
EXACTLY. SO THERE'S NO NEED TO PANIC--
SKRRRRD

THIS IS GETTING WEIRD. I'M NOT STICKING AROUND.
LET'S GO. NOW.


SHIT. HOLD ON--

WHAT THE--

--RAMSEY! WAIT UP!

RAMSEY! WHERE ARE YOU?!
I'M HERE.
THERE'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT, I PROMISE.
I'LL PROTECT YOU.
TRAV--
I'M RIGHT HERE.
BEHIND YOU!
SWISSSSH

AAAH!
SPLAT-A-TATT-TATT, CHUMP.
THUNK
NOOOOO!
SLICE
YOU'RE KILLING HIM!
CORRECTION...
...HE'S DEAD.
THWAK
OF ALL THE SUITS IN ALL THE WORLD, THIS LOSER PICKS THE ONE WITH THE NIPPLES.
HE DESERVED TO DIE FOR THAT ALONE.

WHAT AM I GONNA DO WITH YOU?
WHATEVER YOU WANT.
'CAUSE THAT WAS FUN.
EVEN IF IT DID COST HIM HALF AN ARM AND A LEG.
YOU DID GOOD, TOOTS. OUTSMARTING YOUR LITTLE BOY TOY. YOU SET 'EM UP AND I KNOCK 'EM DOWN. SERVED THAT BUSTER UP ON A PLATTER. WE MAKE A HELL'UVA TEAM.
I WANT MORE.
YOU'RE GONNA MAKE A GREAT SERIAL KILLER ONE DAY.
YOU REALLY THINK SO?
STICK WITH ME, KID...
...WE'RE GOING PLACES.
The End

IT'S TRUE. ESPECIALLY ON THESE NIGHTS, WHEN BATS AREN'T THE ONLY CREATURES OUT AND ABOUT IN GOTHAM.
YOU'RE LATE. IT AIN'T POLITE TO KEEP THE BOSS WAITING.
IT AIN'T GOOD FOR YER HEALTH, NEITHER.

WHAT A GREAT NIGHT FOR A GHOST STORY.
SINCERE APOLOGIES, GENTS. YOU MIGHT SAY THE SPIRIT WAS WILLING, BUT THE TRAINS WERE LATE.
LET HIM IN, YOU MORONS.

SUPERSTITIOUS LOT

writing **AARON SAGERS** • pencils & inks **RYAN KELLY**
colors **DEE CUNNIFFE** • lettering **SIMON BOWLAND**
associate editor **SABRINA FUTCH** • editor **KATIE KUBERT**

YOU ARE STACKS?
INDEED. INDEED.
TENNYSON STACKS. EXPLORER OF THE ANOMALOUS. PROFESSIONAL WEIRDO.
:Heh: MY COLLEGE STUDENTS CALL ME DR. SPOOKY.
YOU LOOK LIKE A FUCKIN' HOBO CLOWN.
HE'S SCARED. NOT SLEEPING. HAUNTED.
GOTHAM IS A COLORFUL PLACE, MR. COBBLEPOT. IN MY WORK, IT'S HELPFUL TO STAND OUT AGAINST THE DARKNESS. SOOO, YOU GOT GHOSTS...
SHUT IT!
GONNA PUT ME IN ARKHAM.
YOU IDIOTS LOCK UP AND LEAVE. I GOT IT FROM HERE.
GREAT BUILDING. LOTS OF HISTORY. GOES BACK TO THE LATE 1800s.
FOUNDED BY THEODORE COBBLE...
CUT THE SHIT. I DIDN'T BRING YOU IN FROM DETROIT FOR A HISTORY LESSON.
BUT YOU WILL GET A LESSON.

RIGHTY-O. LET'S GET TO IT.
WHAT'S BRINGING THE CHILLS TO THE ICEBERG?
"IT STARTED A COUPLE WEEKS AGO. ALWAYS AFTER HOURS. AROUND THREE A.M.
"HEARD IT FROM MY SUITE UPSTAIRS: AT FIRST JUST CLINKING GLASSES, OR THINGS MOVING.
"DISMISSED IT AS COMING FROM THE SEALS.
"THEN THE FOOTSTEPS COMING UP THE STAIRS TO MY OFFICE.
ANOTHER ARKHAM ESCAPE!
BATMAN SIGHTINGS
GOTHAM GAZETTE
MOB
THUMP THUMP
"AND THEN THE WHISPERS."
OZ
OZ
OZZZZYYY...

"I TRIED TO FIGHT...WHATEVER IT WAS."
OSWAAAAAAALD...
YOU'RE NOT REAL! LEAVE ME ALONE!
PLEASE.
"EVERY NIGHT, AFTER EVERYONE LEAVES. GETTING WORSE. UNTIL..."
HIYA, BOSS.

"THAT WAS TWO NIGHTS AGO. HALLOWEEN.
DUNNO WHY I'M TELLING SOME CLOWN ABOUT IT.
WHAT DO YOU HAVE AGAINST CLOWNS, ANYHOW?
YOU'RE ***REALLY*** NOT FROM GOTHAM. I DON'T BELIEVE IN THIS SHIT, ANYWAY. I'M NOT CRAZY.
I GET CALLS FROM A LOT OF NOT-CRAZY PEOPLE, MR. COBBLEPOT. THEY DON'T BELIEVE, *"BUT THERE WAS THIS ONE TIME..."* THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.
*DOESN'T REALLY MATTER IF **HE** BELIEVES IN **THEM.***
I WATCH THE SHOWS. ***ONLY SOMETIMES.*** YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE ANY PARANORMAL INVESTIGATOR CON-MAN I'VE SEEN ON TV.
OH, YOU'RE A ***FAN!*** NOT TO WORRY. WE ALL HAVE OUR GUILTY PLEASURES.
AND YOU'RE NOT WRONG. IT TAKES ALL KINDS.
YOU'VE GOT THE COCKNEY-WIZARD-IN-A-TRENCH-COAT TYPES. ALPHA GHOST-BROS IN TIGHT BLACK TEES. ECCENTRIC PSYCHICS. GHOST-HUNTING PLUMBERS...
...AND ME.
*EXCEPT I DON'T **HUNT** GHOSTS.*

...LOT OF GHOSTS IN GOTHAM. YOU TELL ANYONE I SAID THAT, I'LL SLIT YOUR THROAT.
SMOKE?
I DON'T SMOKE...
HEY, DID YOU KNOW CAPONE WAS SUPPOSEDLY HAUNTED BY THE GHOST OF A GUY NAMED JIMMY DURING HIS STAY AT EASTERN STATE PEN IN 1929? EITHER A GHOST, OR MAYBE IT WAS JUST THE SYPHILIS.
...RIGHT. SHALL WE? THIS GIZMO HERE IS A RIGGED DEAD BELL CONNECTED TO A TRIPWIRE AND E.M. PUMP. IT USES A SERIES OF SENSORS TO MEASURE FOR A BASELINE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND ELECTROMAGNETIC FACTORS. Blah, blah, blah.
BASICALLY, IF IT PICKS UP SOMETHING OUTSIDE EXPLAINABLE FLUCTUATIONS, IT'LL GO WILD, AND WE MIGHT BE IN THE PRESENCE OF A SPECTER.
BUT NOT, LIKE, THE SPECTRE.
JESUS. WHAT KIND OF SNAKE-OIL CHARLATAN...
KAHK
THREE A.M. IT'S SHOWTIME.
SO, um, HOW'D YOU END UP DOING THIS?
HUM-WHIRR-ZZZ
SMALL TALK FROM A FRIGHTENED MAN.
PRETTY SIMPLE: TWELVE YEARS OLD. THE ICE ON WALLED LAKE WASN'T AS THICK AS I THOUGHT. DIED FOR A BIT. CAME BACK. TOOK AN INTEREST IN THOSE WHO DIDN'T...OR SORTA DID.
NOW I KEEP A FOOT ON ONE SIDE, ONE ON THE OTHER.

THIS MIGHT GET WEIRD. DON'T RUN.
OH, IT'S DEFINITELY GOING TO GET WEIRD.
HI THERE! MR. STACKS HERE. DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE. HERE WITH RESPECT. EMPATHY.
WHOEVER LINGERS, STEP FORWARD. LET'S CHAT.
I AM YOUR ADVOCATE.
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
DING DING DING

OSWAAAAAALD...
HOLY. HELL.
YOU ARE THE EMISSARY? HE'S READY.
WHAT DO YOU WANT: TO FIND PEACE?
THE BIRD. WE WANT THE BIRD.
LITTLE BIRD
LITTLE BIRD
OSWALD
PENGUIN
OZZZZZZY
WHAT DO THEY WANT?! STOP THEM! STOP THEM OR I SWEAR I'LL KILL YOU...
THEY WANT YOU, OSWALD. PEACE. VENGEANCE. ADMISSION OF GUILT. REMORSE. MAYBE JUST AN APOLOGY. I TOLD YOU I CAN SHOW YOU THIS PLACE IS HAUNTED. I CAN'T SEND THEM AWAY. THAT'S ON YOU.
I DON'T HUNT GHOSTS. BUT SOMETIMES I HELP GHOSTS HUNT.
UNMARKED GRAVE
I'M A BYSTANDER
SET ME UP
WRONG PLACE, WRONG TIME
I WAS WRONG. YOU SHOULD PROBABLY RUN.
ARE YOU A BELIEVER NOW?

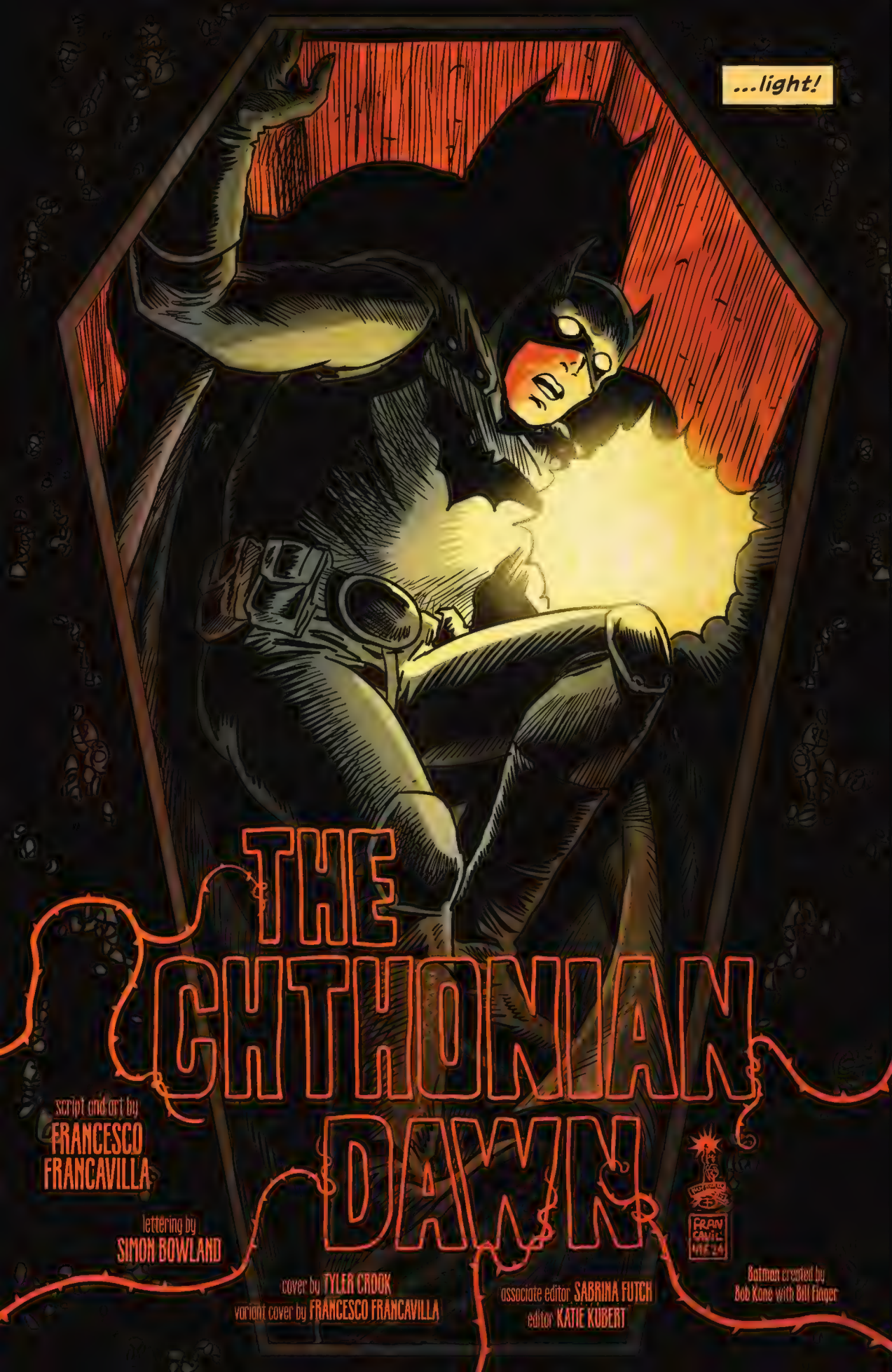
SHIT, SHIT, SHIT...YOU GOT THIS, OSWALD.
DIDN'T DESERVE IT
TWO-TIMED ME
NO. YOU DON'T, OSWALD.
...WAS JUST A KID
BOSS, YA HAD ME KILLED. I WAS A GOOD ONE.
BOO!
OH GOD, PLEASE HELP ME. GOD, PLEASE.
GOD HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, PENGUIN.
LITTLE BIIIRD
WHO'S QUACKING NOW?
QUAAAACK
I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY. REALLY. I SWEAR I MEAN IT. I'LL TELL WHERE THE BODIES ARE. I'LL GIVE YOU PEACE. I AM SO, SO, SO SORRY. I SWEAR.
THAT IS ENOUGH.
TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS, AND I'LL GUT YOU LIKE A FISH.
ONE HUNDRED PER CENT CONFIDENTIALITY, MR. COBBLEPOT. THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS ABOUT THIS ARE YOU AND ME...AND THE SHADOWS.
BESIDES, WHO'D BELIEVE A CLOWN LIKE ME?
GET THE HELL OUT OF MY CLUB.
JUST ONE THING...

"...OUR ACTIONS AFFECT WHAT HAUNTS US. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT IS UP TO YOU.
WHOOSH
NO OFFENSE, BUT I DON'T THINK YOU'RE NEEDED THIS TIME. THE LITTLE BIRD IS IN A CAGE OF HIS OWN MAKING. FOR NOW.
HE CAN BEAT 'EM UP AND LOCK 'EM AWAY. BUT SOMETIMES THE BEST PUNISHMENT IS A GOOD SCARE.
BUT THANKS FOR LOOPING ME IN. AGAIN. THAT WAS FUN.
LOUNGE
OSWALD WON'T CHANGE HIS NATURE. BUT THEY WON'T CHANGE THEIRS, EITHER.
AND THEN THEY'LL BE BACK.
THUMP
HAPPY ALL SOULS' DAY, OSWALD.
THE END

DC Horror Presents... #3
cover art by Tyler Crook

DC Horror Presents... #3
variant cover art by Francesco Francavilla

Nnnngh...
What...?
Tight. Can't move.
Cold. Dark.
I need...



THE CHTHONIAN DAWN

script and art by
FRANCESCO FRANCAVILLA

lettering by
SIMON BOWLAND

cover by TYLER CROOK
variant cover by FRANCESCO FRANCAVILLA

associate editor SABRINA FUTCH
editor KATIE KUBERT

Batman created by
Bob Kane with Bill Finger

Buried alive? How?!
I remember intercepting a distress call from a lab on the police scanner. I got there before the cops...
PHYSYS LAB
...but too late. Everyone was dead. Whatever the perps were looking for, they were willing to get it at all costs.

The lab was conducting genetic experiments on a sub-Saharan parasitic weed, the **Striga hermonthica.**

The researchers were trying to genetically create a new strain that would help exponentially accelerate the growth of crops and vegetation even in areas inhospitable to plant life.

All the samples of the new strain were gone. Whoever did it came for the **Striga...**

Outside the lab, I found traces of minerals specific to **Dryads Hill...**

...home of the old, now-abandoned **Pomona Botanical Conservatory.**

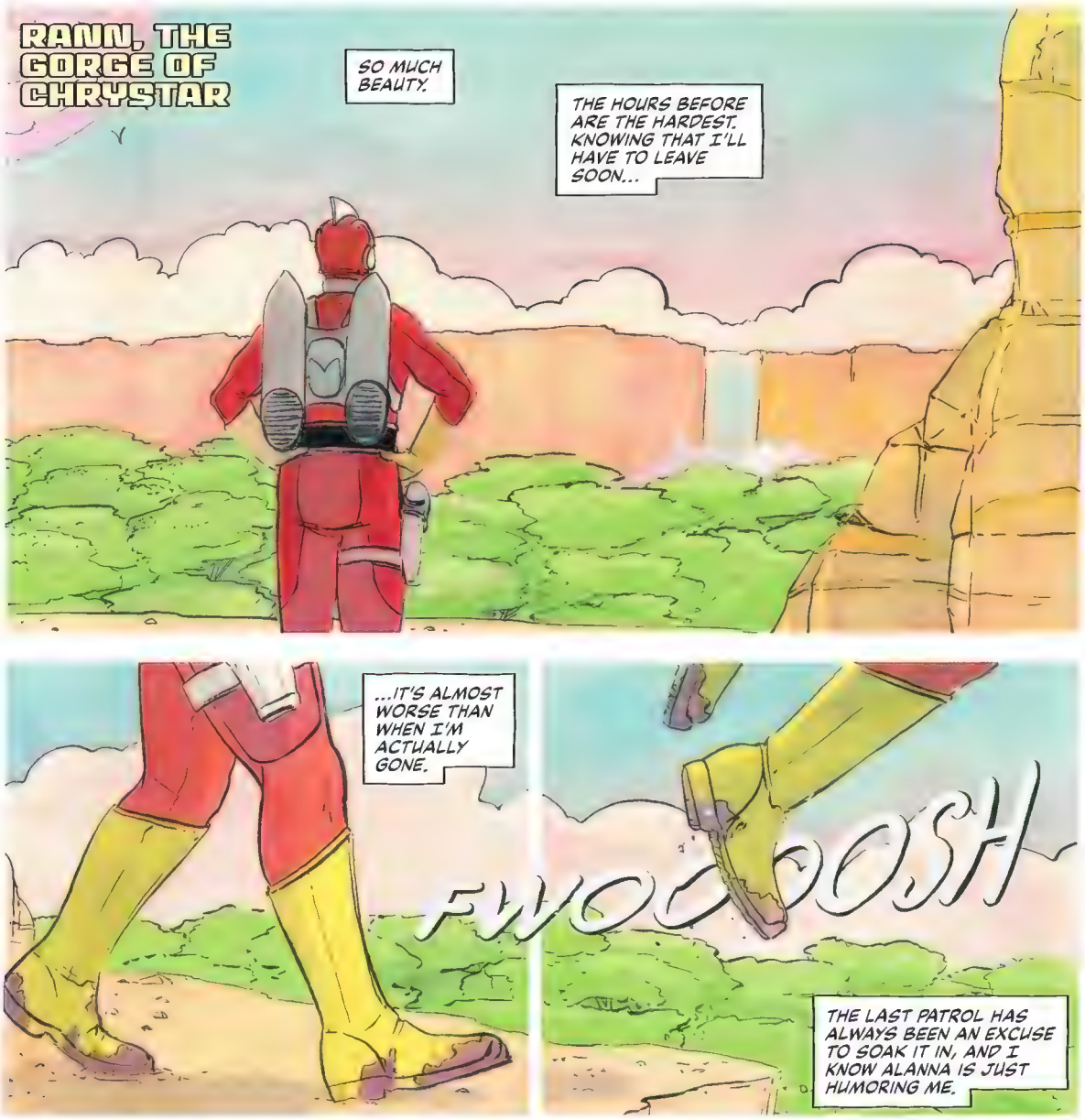
The place was seemingly deserted.
I got to the main greenhouse...
...and I saw them!
Grotesque trees shaped like humans.
Expressions of agonizing pain sculpted in their bark.
Roots and limbs coming out of their mouths and eye sockets. Chills ran down my spine.

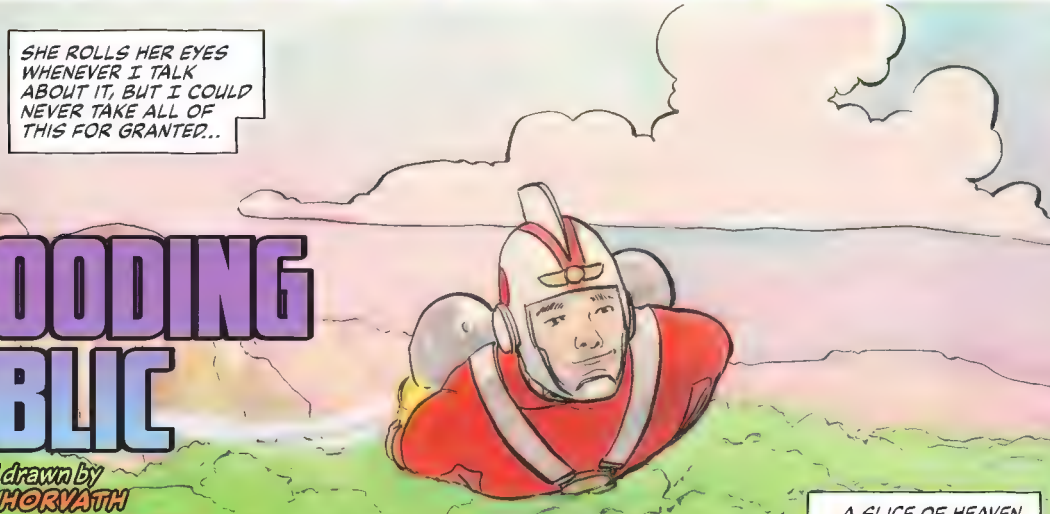
Then I heard that scream, almost inhuman...
AAAAARGH
I ran toward it, so fast I didn't notice the roots and tendrils moving on the floor and the walls like snakes.
And then I saw the horror of it all: a man turning into one of those... trees...in front of my very own eyes.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM...
?!

...HE WILL NO LONGER SUFFER. HE'S ONE WITH ASINTMAH.
HE HAS SERVED HIS PURPOSE. THEY ALL WILL.
ABBY ARCANE?!
WHAT IS ASINTMAH? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!
SHE IS THE BEGINNING AND THE END. HUMANITY HAS FAILED.
EVEN ALEC HOLLAND HIMSELF COULDN'T TURN THINGS AROUND, NO MATTER HOW HARD HE TRIED. IT'S TIME FOR HER TO RECLAIM EARTH.
I JUST HELPED HER A BIT.
SHE NEEDED THAT EXTRA INGREDIENT FROM THE LAB SO HER PLANTS CAN ASSIMILATE AND REPLACE ALL OTHER LIFE-FORMS ON EARTH.
SSSSSSS
GO TO SLEEP NOW. IT WILL BE OVER SOON.

I need to get out of here and stop Abby before it's too late.
These micro-charges should do the job.
Just hope I'm not buried...
BOOOM!
...six feet under.
A ship?
How long was I out?!

NO... IT CAN'T BE...
TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH.
IT'S BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T IT?
THE END
FRAN CAVIL 14.F.24




SHE ROLLS HER EYES WHENEVER I TALK ABOUT IT, BUT I COULD NEVER TAKE ALL OF THIS FOR GRANTED..
...A SLICE OF HEAVEN, TAILOR-MADE FOR ADAM STRANGE, SOME 25 TRILLION MILES ACROSS THE STARS.

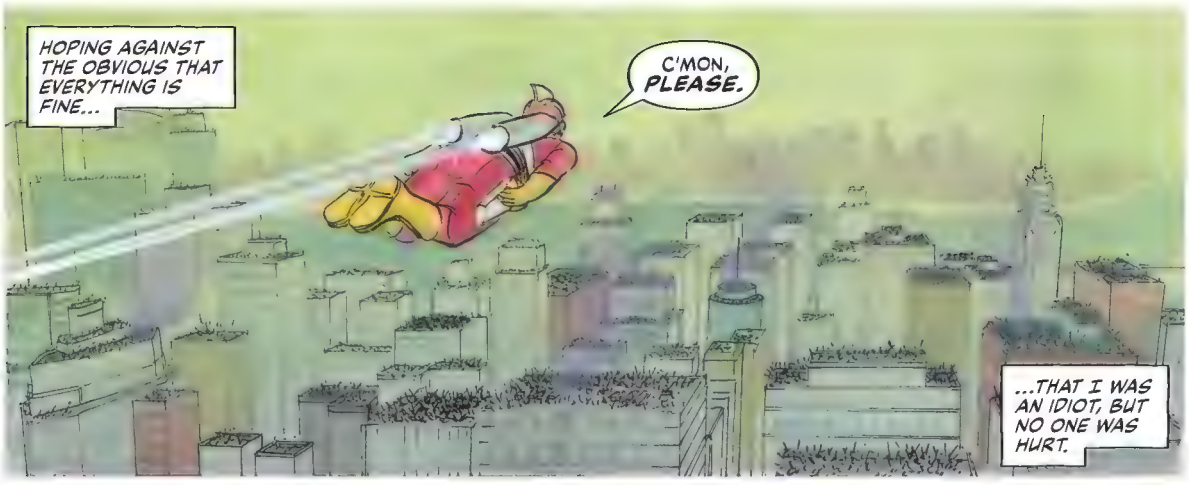
The BROODING PUBLIC

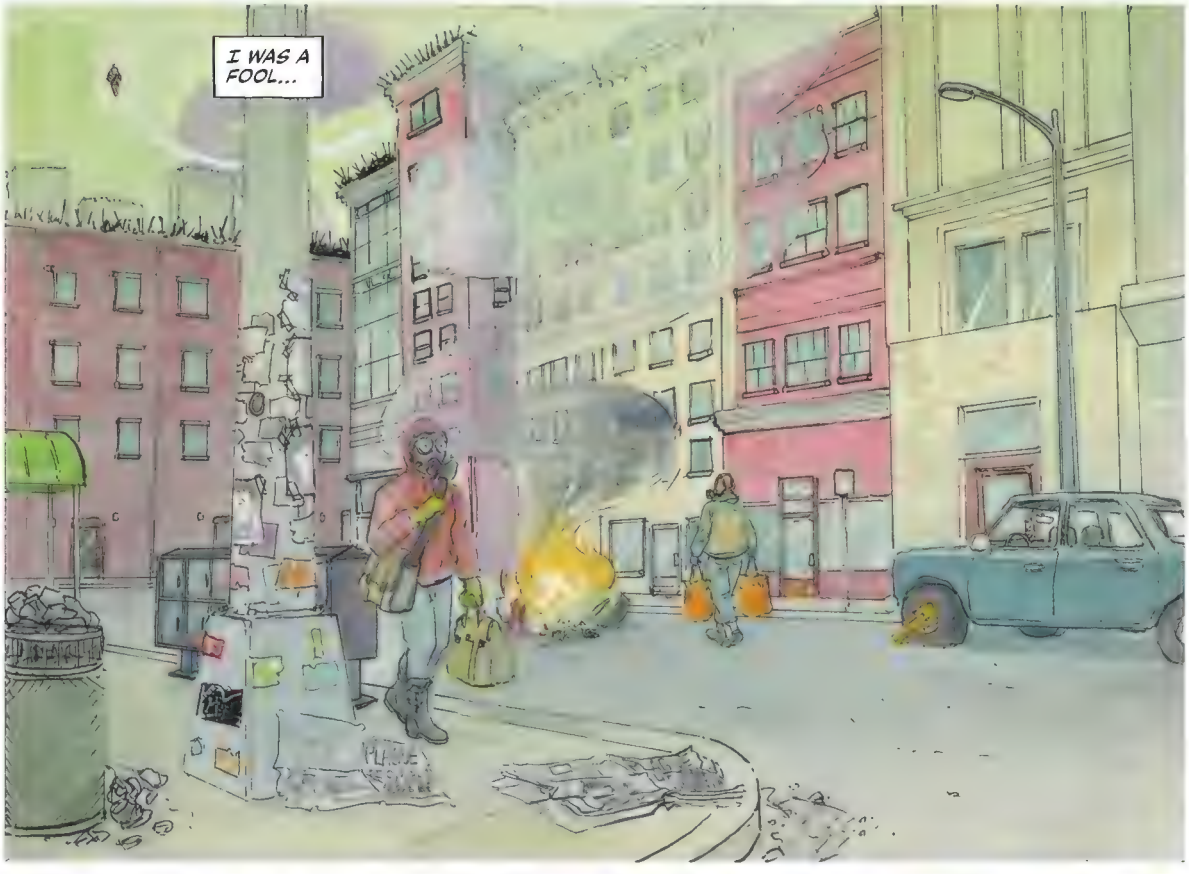
written and drawn by PATRICK HORVATH
lettering by SIMON BOWLAND
associate editor SABRINA FUTCH
editor KATIE KUBERT

SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER.
By special arrangement with THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY.

ONE MORE FAREWELL, IN MY FINAL MOMENTS.
DO WE HAVE ENOUGH TIME FOR A KISS?
NEVER ENOUGH TIME.
ADAM!
I HATE TO RUIN THE MOMENT, BUT THE PATROL WENT WELL?
EVERYTHING SAFE AND SOUND.
FATHER...
FOR NOW AT LEAST.
WE HATE TO LOSE OUR GREAT PROTECTOR, EVEN FOR A SHORT WHILE.

ALWAYS A SAD TIME WHEN THE ZETA BEAM WEARS OFF AND YOU MUST GO--
ADAM! YOUR BOOTS!
THEY'RE COATED IN SPORES.
WE'RE ALMOST OUT OF TIME. HURRY.
SPORES?
UNBELIEVABLY LUCKY, ADAM. WE INOCULATED YOU AGAINST ANY INFECTION ON YOUR FIRST VISIT HERE.
THERE, NEUTRALIZED.
BUT IF SPORES LIKE THESE EVER MADE IT TO A PLANET WITH NO PROTECTION...
ADAM?
YOU MAKE SURE TO CLEAN YOUR SUIT BEFORE EACH JUMP, RIGHT?
...IT WOULD BE A NIGHTMARE.
YOU MAKE SURE, RIGHT, ADAM?!
IT'S TOO LATE.
THE BEAM IS FADING. HE'S BEING PULLED BACK TO EARTH...


HOPING AGAINST THE OBVIOUS THAT EVERYTHING IS FINE...
C'MON, PLEASE.
...THAT I WAS AN IDIOT, BUT NO ONE WAS HURT.


I WAS A FOOL...

...AND COUNTLESS PEOPLE PAID FOR THAT WITH THEIR LIVES.

WALL ST STATION
SOAP

THE REST CARRY ON...
...IN WHATEVER WAY THEY CAN.
ANYTHING HELPS THANK YOU
DIRTY BOOTS...
INFECTED
...AND MILLIONS DIED.
TURNED INTO THESE STRANGE GARGOYLES PERCHED ON TOP OF EVERY BUILDING.
BROADCASTING SOMETHING...
...A NIGHTMARE.

INDIFFERENT TO THE HOST...
...TRAVELING 25 TRILLION MILES ACROSS THE STARS...
...AND IT'S THRIVING.
Hnnnng!

FUCK, HELP MEEEE!
MY HEAD! IT'S TOO FULL!
TOO MANY! THEY'RE CRAWLING AROUND INSIDE...
...TELLING ME TO CLIMB!
C-CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER!
BODY'S T-TIGHTENING UP!
FWUMP
P-PLEASE, GOD.
K-KILL ME, NOOOOOW!
AAAAAAARRGH!

RIIIIIIIP
WORMS.
AND IMMEDIATELY THEY COME TOGETHER IN THE PUREST FORM OF EXISTENCE...
CRUNCH
...SOLIDIFIED IN A UNIFIED EFFORT...

...PROPAGATION.

ADAM STRANGE...

...WE HAVE A COUPLE QUESTIONS WE'D LIKE TO ASK YOU.
END?

DC Horror Presents... #4
cover art by Tyler Crook

DC Horror Presents... #4
variant cover art by Charlie Adlard

It's weird how random memories can ripple up to the calmest surface.
It was years ago when I was lucky enough to catch a tip-off from an ex-hench, ZIPPER-LIPS ZITO.
Despite the name, Zipper could sure unzip those lips for a big enough lick of the loot.
And this score happened to be LE MONDE D'AZURE--the rarest of blue diamonds.
Booze, cards, and bimbos were Zipper's passions. Gemology... not so much. I could stiff him on the finder's fee.
Breaking in, I was shocked by how analog the security was.
I guess some people DO have a price when it comes to guarding something priceless.
But all the best thieves know...
...to never question your luck.

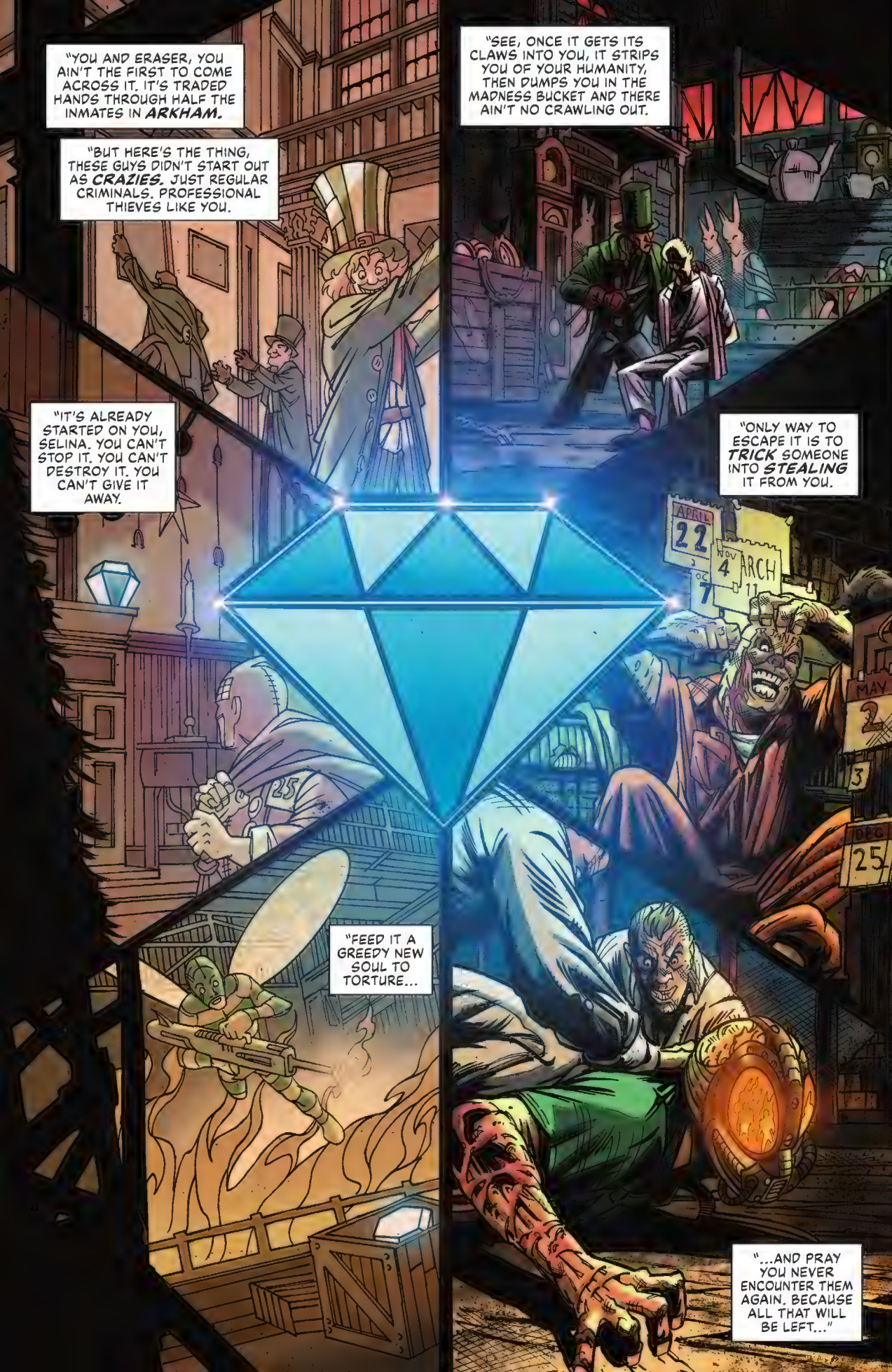
But that was a long time ago.
TRICK OR TREEEEEAT!
Before my fairy tale came true...
...I met a prince, no...A KNIGHT. We fell in LOVE...
CRIMINALS ARE A COWARDLY AND SUPERSTITIOUS LOT...
...and made something WONDERFUL.
...AND WHO MAKES THEM COWER MORE THAN THE HUNTRESS!
LIKE IT? I MADE HER UP!
I TOLD YOU, BRUCE, A HOMEMADE COSTUME IS ALWAYS BETTER THAN STORE-BOUGHT.
YOU'RE LUCKY YOU HAVE SUCH A CRAFTY MOTHER, HELENA...
OH YOU HAVE NO IDEA, DEAR...
I push that random memory back down, lock it in a safe.
Why focus on the PAST when the PRESENT is so deliciously rich...
...that you can taste it.

The DIAMOND that STEALS BACK
I'VE PREPARED MORE SWEETS, MRS. WAYNE.
NO...
NOOOOO!
PATTON OSWALT and JORDAN BLUM writers
DANNY EARLS artist
JAO CANOLA colorist
SIMON BOWLAND letterer
SABRINA FUTCH associate editor • KATIE KUBERT editor
TYLER CROOK cover • CHARLIE ADLARD variant cover

An entire LIFETIME. Lived over and over.
:Gasp:
His vows. Her birth. Every time so REAL.
Every time...they DIE. Again and again. Splintering my soul.
How can a nightmare seem to last forever when you've barely shut your eyes?
At least it's finally over...
OH, NOTHING'S EVER OVER KITTY-CAT...
...THAT'S THE FIRST LESSON YOU LEARN IN HELL.
YOU CAN'T BE REAL...
I'M YOURS NOW, LIKE THE DIAMOND...
...AND WE ARE FOREVER.

I held onto the diamond for two more days.
It WAS three-thousand carats.
But the nightmares INTENSIFIED. Each night the DEATHS of Bruce, Helena, and the life I never got to live became more GRUESOME.
A good thief knows her LIMITS...
...when to cut and run...
...and to always have an ESCAPE plan.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?!
YOU CAN'T GET RID OF ME, KITTY. I AM ROTVYLE, AND I COME FOR THIEVIN' THIEVES.
YOU STOLE THE DIAMOND, SO I IN TURN WILL TAKE SOMETHING FROM YOU...
...YOUR MIND.

When a caper goes SOUTH, your only true NORTH is the SOURCE.
YOU SET ME UP, ZIPPER!
-Gak!-
WHAT?!
LE MONDE D'AZURE, THE DIAMOND--IT'S @#$%& CURSED!
-Ack- I KNOW!
WHAT?!
CLEAR YOUR THROAT BEFORE I SLIT IT.
OKAY, OKAY. THE TIP, THE APARTMENT, IT WAS ALL A FIX TO PAWN OFF THE DIAMOND AND ALL THAT COMES WITH IT.
"IT WAS MY CURRENT BOSS'S IDEA, THE ERASER. THAT DEMON WAS DRIVING HIM OVER THE EDGE AND HE GOT DESPERATE.
"I TOLD HIM IT WAS A BAD IDEA BUT HE THREATENED TO MURDER ME. AND HE MEANT IT.
"SEE, ERASER'S OLD-SCHOOL, DOESN'T KILL...
"...BUT THAT'S WHAT THE DIAMOND DOES TO YOU..."


"YOU AND ERASER, YOU AIN'T THE FIRST TO COME ACROSS IT. IT'S TRADED HANDS THROUGH HALF THE INMATES IN ARKHAM.
"BUT HERE'S THE THING, THESE GUYS DIDN'T START OUT AS CRAZIES. JUST REGULAR CRIMINALS. PROFESSIONAL THIEVES LIKE YOU.
"IT'S ALREADY STARTED ON YOU, SELINA. YOU CAN'T STOP IT. YOU CAN'T DESTROY IT. YOU CAN'T GIVE IT AWAY.
"FEED IT A GREEDY NEW SOUL TO TORTURE...
"SEE, ONCE IT GETS ITS CLAWS INTO YOU, IT STRIPS YOU OF YOUR HUMANITY, THEN DUMPS YOU IN THE MADNESS BUCKET AND THERE AIN'T NO CRAWLING OUT.
"ONLY WAY TO ESCAPE IT IS TO TRICK SOMEONE INTO STEALING IT FROM YOU.
APRIL 22
Nov 4
MAY 2
DEC 25
"...AND PRAY YOU NEVER ENCOUNTER THEM AGAIN. BECAUSE ALL THAT WILL BE LEFT..."

"...IS PURE MADNESS."
KNOK KNOK
HELLO? SELINA? ARE YOU HOME?
IT'S THE LOCAL NEIGHBORHOOD TENNIS PRO. GOT SOME RACKETS THAT NEED RE-STRINGING...
KA-KRAAAK
...AND I WAS TOLD THIS WAS THE PLACE TO GET CATGUT!
A LITTLE BIRDIE UNZIPPED HIS LIPS. TOLD ME WHERE YOU LIVED. FAN-CY.
I FEEL A LITTLE UNDERDRESSED-- MIND IF I BORROW YOUR FORMAL WEAR?
OCT 31
"DEAR BATSIE, TODAY POISON IVY SAID THE MEANEST THING TO ME IN HOMEROOM. I'M THINKING OF CURB-STOMPING HER FACE TO PIECES. P.S. DO YOU HAVE A CRUSH ON ME? CHECK YES OR NO... 2COOL2B4GOTTEN, YOUR CAT-GAL..."
OOOO SHINY...

NO.
NOOOOO!

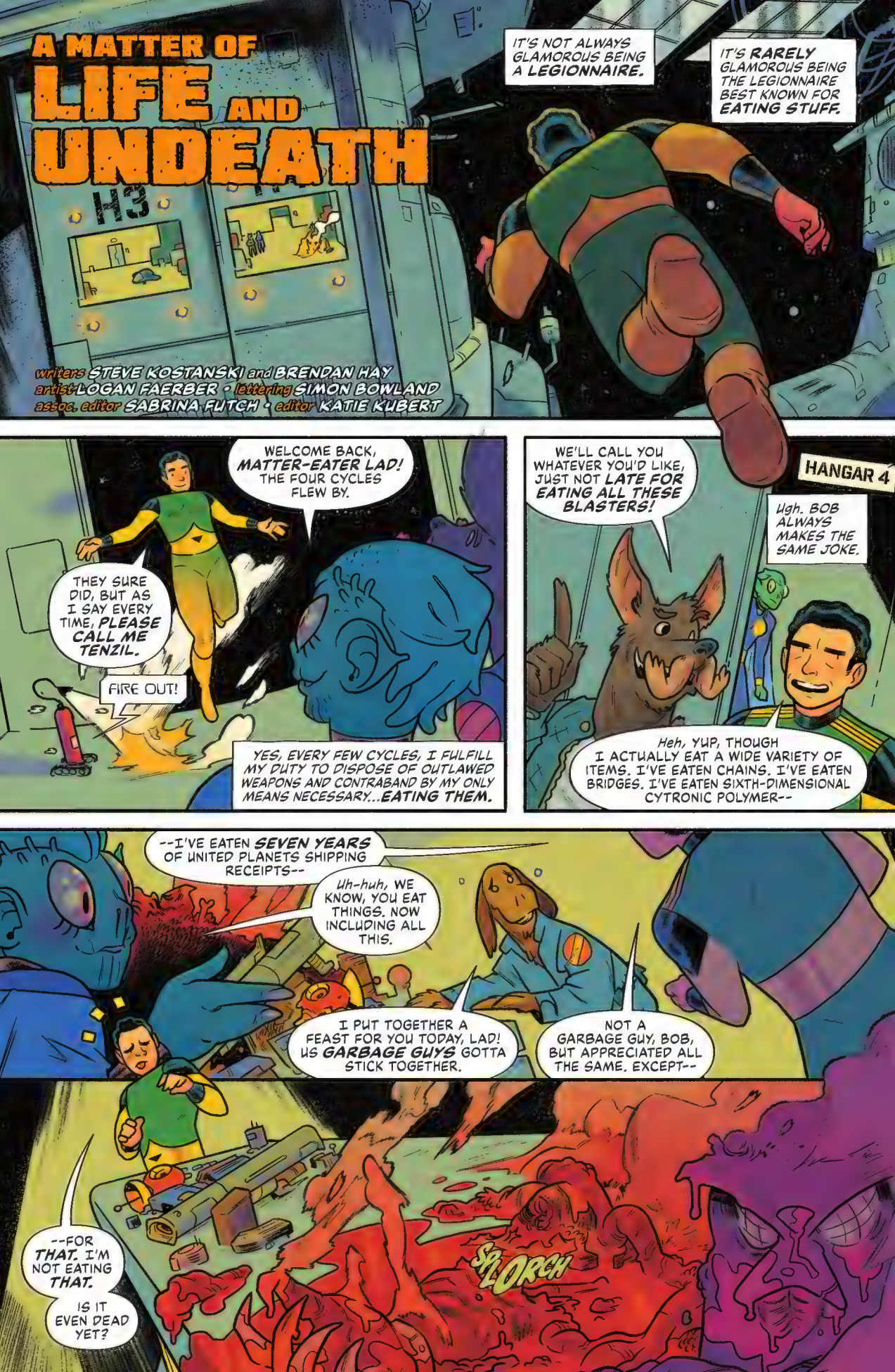
WHAT A NIGHTMARE...

I AM ROTVYLE, DEMON TORMENTOR OF THIEVES. YOUR NIGHTMARE HAS JUST BEGUN--
ONE SECOND, CHIEF. LAST ONE WAS A DOOZY. GOT CAUGHT WEARING WHITE AFTER LABOR DAY...
LUCKILY THERE WAS A ROBIN AROUND TO HELP ME DYE IT RED. Heh.

SILENCE! YOUR MIND IS NOW MY DWELLING...
...AND I WILL REND IT TO RIBBONS! STARTING WITH--

WHATEVER YOU SAY, POT-PIE.
BOYS, MAKE SOME ROOM UP THERE, AND BE GENTLE--IT'S HIS FIRST DAY.
HAHA HAHA HAHA!

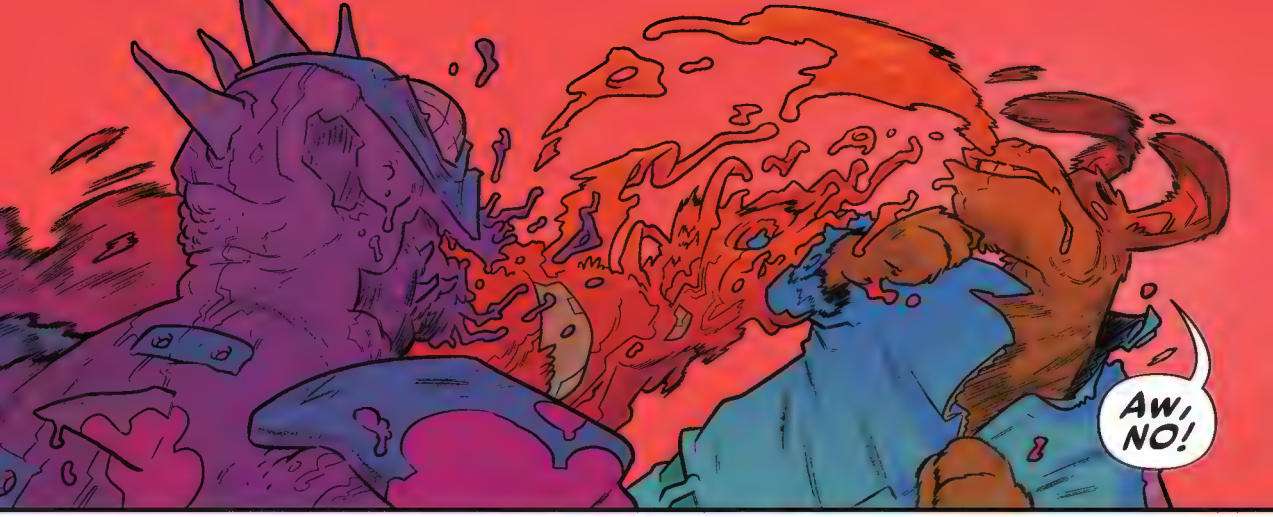
HOW YOU SLEEPING THESE DAYS, BOSS?
ALMOST FEEL LIKE MY OLD SELF...
...LIKE I FINALLY GOT BACK EVERYTHING THAT DEMON...
JOKER STRIKES AGAIN!
GOTHAM GAZETTE
...TOOK FROM ME?
GCPD
End.


A MATTER OF LIFE AND UNDEATH
H3
writers STEVE KOSTANSKI and BRENDAN HAY
artist LOGAN FAERBER • lettering SIMON BOWLAND
assoc. editor SABRINA FUTCH • editor KATIE KUBERT
IT'S NOT ALWAYS GLAMOROUS BEING A LEGIONNAIRE.
IT'S RARELY GLAMOROUS BEING THE LEGIONNAIRE BEST KNOWN FOR EATING STUFF.
WELCOME BACK, MATTER-EATER LAD! THE FOUR CYCLES FLEW BY.
THEY SURE DID, BUT AS I SAY EVERY TIME, PLEASE CALL ME TENZIL.
FIRE OUT!
YES, EVERY FEW CYCLES, I FULFILL MY DUTY TO DISPOSE OF OUTLAWED WEAPONS AND CONTRABAND BY MY ONLY MEANS NECESSARY...EATING THEM.
WE'LL CALL YOU WHATEVER YOU'D LIKE, JUST NOT LATE FOR EATING ALL THESE BLASTERS!
HANGAR 4
Ugh. BOB ALWAYS MAKES THE SAME JOKE.
Heh, YUP, THOUGH I ACTUALLY EAT A WIDE VARIETY OF ITEMS. I'VE EATEN CHAINS. I'VE EATEN BRIDGES. I'VE EATEN SIXTH-DIMENSIONAL CYTRONIC POLYMER--
--I'VE EATEN SEVEN YEARS OF UNITED PLANETS SHIPPING RECEIPTS--
Uh-huh, WE KNOW, YOU EAT THINGS. NOW INCLUDING ALL THIS.
I PUT TOGETHER A FEAST FOR YOU TODAY, LAD! US GARBAGE GUYS GOTTA STICK TOGETHER.
NOT A GARBAGE GUY, BOB, BUT APPRECIATED ALL THE SAME. EXCEPT--
SPLORCH
--FOR THAT. I'M NOT EATING THAT.
IS IT EVEN DEAD YET?

VERY RECENTLY! THIS **WAS** INTERGALACTIC BIO-TYRANT KONSUM-ORR, DEVOURER OF THOUSANDS AND COSMIC COUNTER-FEITER.
HIS EXECUTION WENT **MOSTLY** TO PLAN, BUT HIS ARMOR WAS IMPERVIOUS TO OUR INCINERATORS, SO...
...SOMETHING NEW FOR YOU! THAT'S GOOD, RIGHT? SPICE UP YOUR DAY?
I CAN TAKE IT FROM HERE.
I DON'T WANT TO, BUT I CAN.
SURE WE CAN'T STAY AND WATCH THE MAGIC HAPP--?
WOOSH
14 HOURS LATER...
STEAMING FLESHY ARMOR. NOT THE **FIRST** TIME SEEING THAT ON MY PLATE...THOUGH I WISH IT WAS...
...**DANGOR 7.** I STILL TASTE STOMACH ACID THINKING ABOUT IT...AND HEAR THE SCREAMS... I SWORE I'D **NEVER** EAT LIKE THAT AGAIN...
...SO I WON'T.
THIS SHOULD BE SAFE ENOUGH. CLEARLY BOB ISN'T BUSY CLEANING THIS VENT.
Mmm! ALL DONE! NO MORE MATTER!

DAYS LATER.
KLANG!
Huh? BOB, THAT YOU?
FINALLY CLEANING THAT VENT--
AAAAAH!

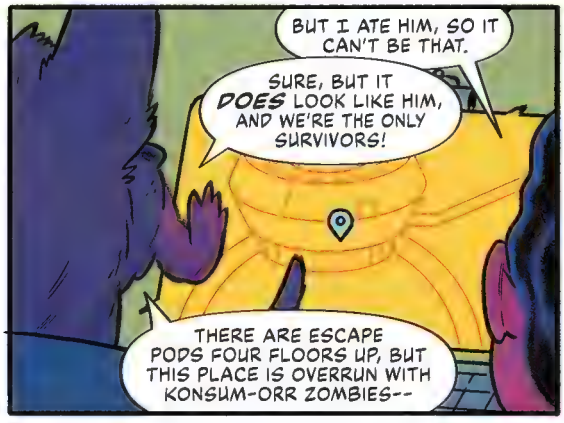
FOUR CYCLES LATER.
Ugh. THIS ASSIGNMENT IS LIKE EATING HOT PAVEMENT: IT ALWAYS COMES BACK UP FASTER THAN YOU WANT IT TO.
H3
H4
WONDER WHAT THEY HAVE FOR ME TODAY?
WONDER IF THEY'RE EVEN HERE TODAY? THIS PLACE LOOKS DESERTED, SO...
...GUESS I CAN GO HOME? SOMETIMES GOOD FORTUNE DOES COME YOUR WAY, TENZIL.
FIRE NOT OUT!
HANGAR 4
GAH! HELP!
NEVER MIND. I KNEW A DAY OFF WOULD BE TOO MUCH TO ASK FOR.
MATTER-EATER LAD!
IT'S TENZ--
THANK THE PSILORDS YOU'RE HERE! SAVE US FROM...WHATEVER THIS IS!
WHATEVER THIS IS IS CLEARLY UNRELATED TO ANYTHING I FAILED TO EAT LAST TIME...RIGHT?

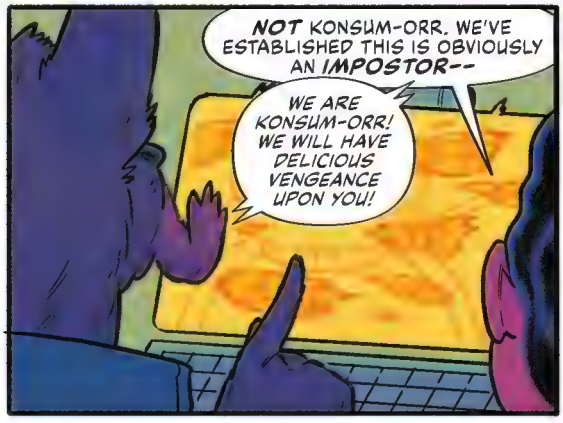

AW, NO!

SKRUNCH
FIRE OUT!

AW, YEAH! WAY TO LOOK OUT FOR YOUR FELLOW GARBAGE GUY, LAD!

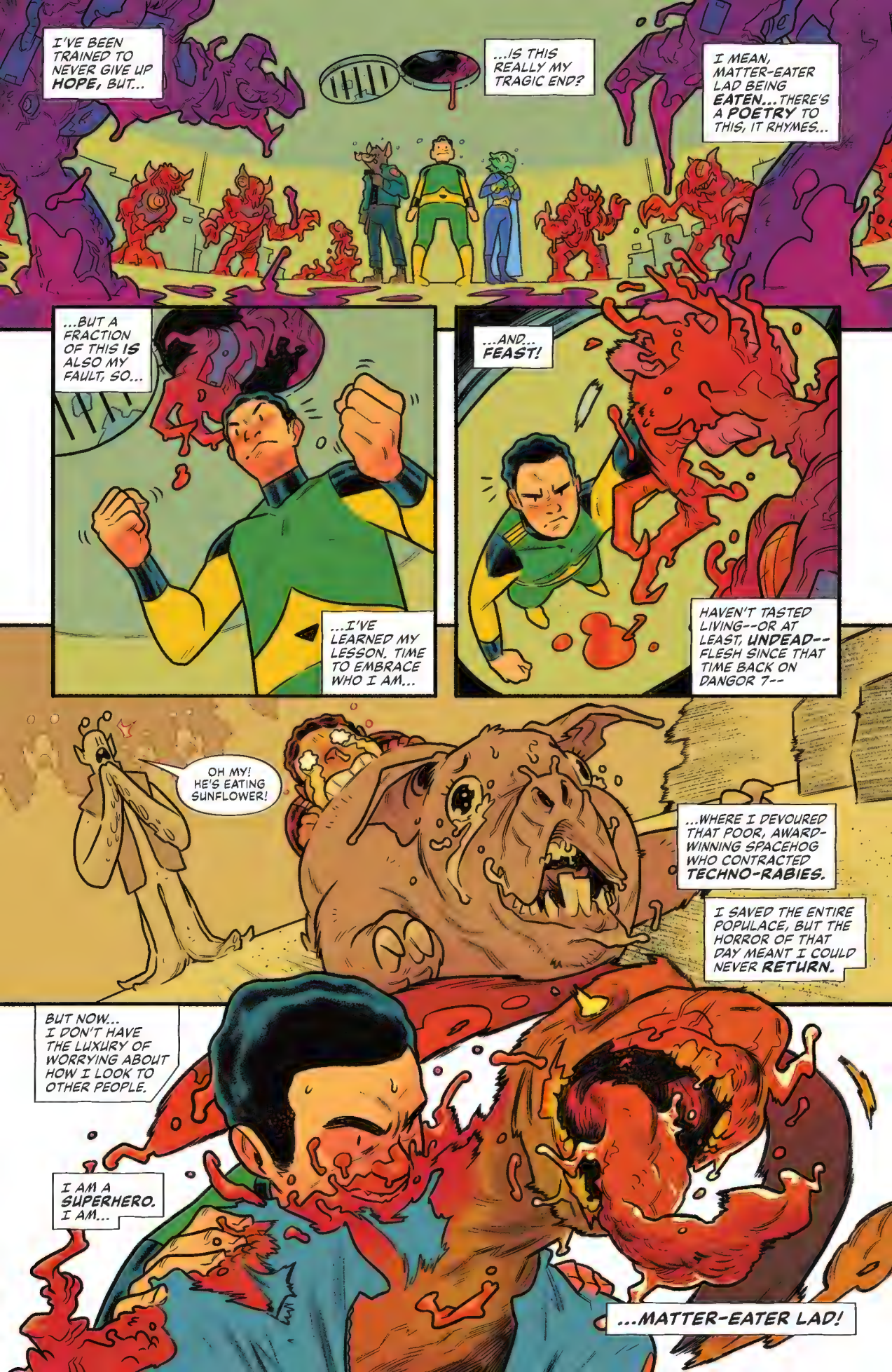
SECURITY
WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
WE DON'T KNOW! AS SOON AS YOU LEFT, PEOPLE STARTING GETTING INFECTED BY THESE CHUNKS OF FLESH THAT FRANKLY LOOK LIKE KONSUM-ORR--


BUT I ATE HIM, SO IT CAN'T BE THAT.
SURE, BUT IT DOES LOOK LIKE HIM, AND WE'RE THE ONLY SURVIVORS!
THERE ARE ESCAPE PODS FOUR FLOORS UP, BUT THIS PLACE IS OVERRUN WITH KONSUM-ORR ZOMBIES--


NOT KONSUM-ORR. WE'VE ESTABLISHED THIS IS OBVIOUSLY AN IMPOSTOR--
WE ARE KONSUM-ORR! WE WILL HAVE DELICIOUS VENGEANCE UPON YOU!

...WHOEVER THIS ENTIRELY NEW VILLAIN IS, I WILL SAVE YOU.
BUT HOW WILL WE OPEN THE DOORS?
OH, THIS IS MY BREAD AND BUTTER.
LITERALLY, CHAINS TASTE LIKE BUTTER.
BUT HOW WILL WE MAKE SURE THEY DON'T FOLLOW?
BUT HOW WILL WE GET UP THERE?

MATTER-EATER LAD--
TENZIL.
TENZIL...IT'S TIME. PLEASE DO IT.
DO WHAT?
EAT ME. NOW. BEFORE I BECOME ONE OF THOSE...THINGS. I CAN FEEL MYSELF STARTING TO TURN--
WHAT? BOB, NO? YOU'RE FINE!
I'M BOILING.
WE'RE ALL BOILING! IT'S HOT IN THESE VENTS.
AND BESIDES, I COULD NEVER EAT YOU...MY FELLOW GARBAGE GUY.
Aw...
ARGH!
CRAWL FASTER!
HURRY!
BOB'S QUICKER THAN HE LOOKS.
HERE! THIS IS THE CONTROL ROOM.
THE AUXILIARY ESCAPE PODS SHOULD BE RIGHT OVER--


I'VE BEEN TRAINED TO NEVER GIVE UP HOPE, BUT...
...IS THIS REALLY MY TRAGIC END?
I MEAN, MATTER-EATER LAD BEING EATEN... THERE'S A POETRY TO THIS, IT RHYMES...
...BUT A FRACTION OF THIS IS ALSO MY FAULT, SO...
...I'VE LEARNED MY LESSON. TIME TO EMBRACE WHO I AM...
...AND... FEAST!
HAVEN'T TASTED LIVING--OR AT LEAST, UNDEAD--FLESH SINCE THAT TIME BACK ON DANGOR 7--
OH MY! HE'S EATING SUNFLOWER!
...WHERE I DEVOURED THAT POOR, AWARD-WINNING SPACEHOG WHO CONTRACTED TECHNO-RABIES.
I SAVED THE ENTIRE POPULACE, BUT THE HORROR OF THAT DAY MEANT I COULD NEVER RETURN.
BUT NOW... I DON'T HAVE THE LUXURY OF WORRYING ABOUT HOW I LOOK TO OTHER PEOPLE.
I AM A SUPERHERO. I AM...
...MATTER-EATER LAD!

I DON'T HAVE TIME TO EAT EACH ONE ENTIRELY...
...BUT I CAN SLOW THEM DOWN WITH STRATEGIC BITES.
CHWOMP
CHWOMP
CHWOMP
CHWOMP
CAN I OPEN MY EYES YET?
I WOULDN'T.

...HHH...HHH... -phew-
WOW. YOU...YOU DID IT...
...YOU SAVED US... TENZIL!
THANKS, BUT...
...TENZIL IS THE EASY WAY OUT, AND HEROES DON'T TAKE THE EASY WAY. CALL ME...
...MATTER-EATER LAD.
03
OH. OKAY. IF THAT'S WHAT YOU PREFER NOW... MATTER-EATER LAD.
Heh heh.
GODSPEED, MY FRIENDS. I'M NOT DONE HERE YET...
"...BECAUSE I'LL BE WORKING THROUGH LUNCH."
CHWOMP
THE END

DC Horror Presents... #1
variant cover art by Dave Johnson
JOHNSON

DC Horror Presents... #1-4
connecting cover art by Tyler Crook

DC Horror Presents... #1
variant cover art by Christian Ward

Bones crunching, worms munching, blood spattering... these are a few of our favorite things!

From the most disturbed and rotten minds in horror comes *DC Horror Presents*...a new collection of gruesome stories set in the DCU, penned in blood by some of your favorite creepers! These shorts take DC's heroes and villains and put them into the most intense, spine-tingling tales imaginable. Definitely not for the faint of heart—which is why this book is rated 17+.

This collection features stories by the Boulet Brothers (*Dragula*), David Dastmalchian (*Late Night with the Devil*) and Leah Kilpatrick (*Best Man Dead Man*), Aaron Sagers (*Paranormal Caught on Camera*), LaToya Morgan (*The Walking Dead*), Patton Oswalt and Jordan Blum (*Minor Threats*), Brendan Hay (*Gremlins: Secrets of the Mogwai*) and Steven Kostanski (*Psycho Goreman*), horror comics legends Francesco Francavilla (*Batman: The Black Mirror*) and Patrick Horvath (*Beneath the Trees Where Nobody Sees*), *and more, so get ready...it's gonna be wild tonight, flesh to flesh and bite to bite!*

Collects *DC Horror Presents...* #1-4.

SON OF ULTRON